



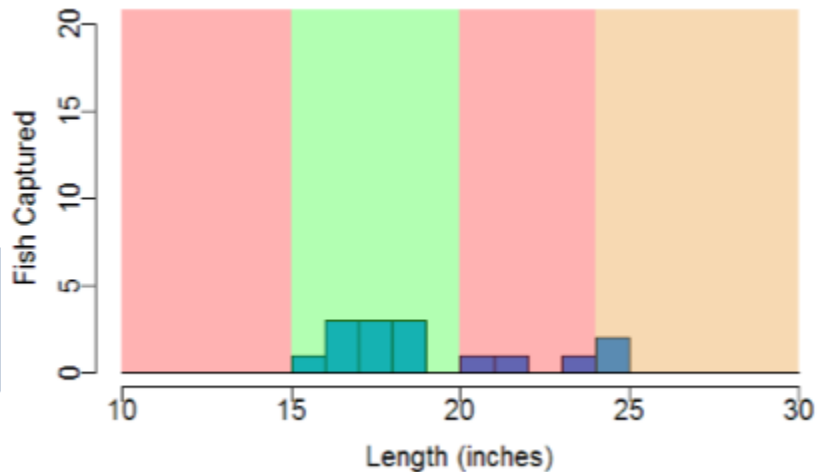
## Spring Fisheries Survey Summary Ashegon Lake, Sawyer County, 2019

The Hayward DNR Fisheries Management Team conducted a fyke netting survey on Ashegon Lake from April 23-24, 2019 to assess the adult walleye and northern pike, and black crappie populations in the lake. Five nets were set overnight for two nights which resulted in 10 total net-nights of effort. An electrofishing survey targeting bass and bluegill would typically accompany our netting efforts. However, extremely high water made it impossible to effectively electrofish Ashegon lake in 2019. Therefore, no data on bass or bluegill is presented here. Quality, preferred, and memorable sizes referenced in this summary are based on standard proportions of world record lengths developed for each species by the American Fisheries Society.

### Walleye (Adult)



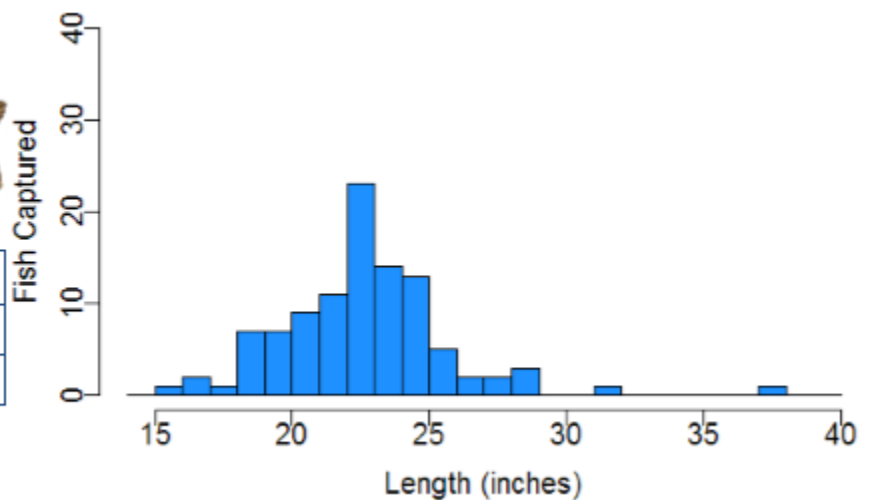
Captured 2 per net-night $\geq 10$ inches	
Quality Size $\geq 15$ "	100%
Preferred Size $\geq 20$ "	33%



### Northern Pike



Captured 10 per net-night $\geq 14$ inches	
Quality Size $\geq 21$ "	74%
Preferred Size $\geq 28$ "	5%



## Summary of Results

Our survey of Ashegon Lake began while there was still ice cover on a portion of the lake. Pike spawning had already begun and a fair number of walleye were captured as well. Black crappie would have been a target species in this type of survey, but none were captured, likely due to cold water temperatures. High water created challenges in finding good net locations and also prevented the planned electrofishing portion of this survey from being completed. As such, this report is a narrow view of the overall Ashegon fishery.

Fifteen walleye were captured in ten net-nights of effort, which is a relatively low rate but not vastly different than what has been observed in the past in Ashegon. Ashegon has been stocked with walleye periodically and may have a small amount of natural reproduction. There is not much reason to expect Ashegon to support a high-density walleye fishery, but it does support good size. All walleye sampled were over 15 inches and 33% were over 20 inches.

Northern pike appear to be increasing in abundance in Ashegon Lake. A 2011 survey following similar protocols found just 1.6 pike per net night. In 2019 we found over 10 per net night. The increase in abundance has led to a decrease in pike size. Only 5% of pike captured in 2019 were over 28 inches, compared to 67% in 2011 (including a 40 inch pike).



**A nice walleye showing up in a fyke netting survey is always something to smile about. Photo by Max Wolter**

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Reviewed and Approved by

